

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-01

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 STR-01 CEA-01

(ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

NEA - MR. SOBER

EB/IFD/OIA - MR. ELLIS (INFO)

L/NEA - MR. NELSON (INFO)

L/C - MR. HUANG (INFO)

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R 060148Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN/SY, US

SUBJECT: MOBIL CLAIM IN SYRIA

1. MOBIL NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS (PETER CHASE) CALLED ARN NOVEMBER 5 TO INFORM US THAT MOBIL/SOUTH (THE DIVISION THAT HANDLES LEBANON AND SYRIA) IS SENDING ITS GENERAL COUNSEL MURRAY W. MCEMIRY TO SYRIA TO DISCUSS CLAIMS. MCEMIRY WILL BE ARRIVING IN BEIRUT ON NOVEMBER 7 AND INTENDS SPEND FEW DAYS THERE CONSULTING WITH MOBIL OFFICE AND LAWYERS THERE ON BACKGROUND OF SYRIAN CLAIMS. HE THEN PLANS GO TO DAMASCUS, AND BEFORE MAKING CONTACT WITH SARG WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH AMBASSADOR AND ECONOFF. WE TOLD CHASE AND MR. MCEMIRY (WHO JOINED TELCON) THAT AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF WOULD BE FULLY OCCUPIED NOV. 11-13

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WITH VISIT OF SECRETARY BUTZ. MCEMIRY SAID HE WOULD PLAN

HIS TRIP TO SYRIA BEFORE THEN.

2. MCEMIRY'S MISSION WAS DESCRIBED AS PRIMARILY ONE OF INVESTIGATION OF CLAIMS, BUT WE GATHERED THAT HE WOULD ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SARG IF HE FOUND READINESS. MCEMIRY SAID MOBIL HAD AT ONE TIME BEEN OFFERED ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN COMPENSATION FOR 1965 NATIONALIZATION OF SERVICE STATIONS BUT BEFORE AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED A COUP OCCURRED AND SUBSEQUENT GOVERNMENT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN SETTLING; MCEMIRY SAID HIS

RECORDS DID NOT INDICATE WHEN THIS WAS. SUBSEQUENTLY SARG HAD RAISED CLAIMS AGAINST MOBIL TOTALLING \$9 MILLION FOR CUSTOMS FEES COMPANY ALLEGEDLY OWED SARG. CHASE AND MCEMIRY SAID MOBIL WOULD LIKE NOW TO SETTLE BOTH ITS CLAIM AND SARG'S CUSTOMS CASE.

3. MCEMIRY WILL BE STAYING AT ST. GEORGES HOTEL IN BEIRUT IN CASE YOU WANT TO GET WORD TO HIM BEFORE HE COMES TO DAMASCUS. INGERSOLL

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